

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

IN Chapter I, the administrative history of Kolar district, tracing the various changes that took place in its set-up from time to time, has been dealt with. In this chapter, the pattern of general administration in the district and the functions and powers of the several officers, from the Divisional Commissioner to the village officers are set forth in brief.

In the beginning of this century, public administration in the State largely concerned itself with providing security of person and property and realising the revenue necessary for maintaining several departments. The Police, the Prisons and the Judiciary represented the security departments, while the Land Revenue, Excise, Registration and Stamps formed the main sources of revenue for the administration. The Public Works Department formed an important unit of the Government. With the gradual introduction of measures for the economic and social welfare of the people, development departments like Agriculture, Education, Public Health, Industries and Commerce, Co-operation, etc., attained growing importance. After the achievement of Independence, incessant efforts are being made to promote all-round welfare of the people at a quicker pace by launching a series of development plans.

Kolar is one of the four districts forming the Bangalore Division, the other three districts being Bangalore, Tumkur and Chitradurga. For purposes of administrative convenience, the district has been divided into two revenue sub-divisions with headquarters at Kolar and Chikballapur. The Kolar Sub-Division consists of Kolar, Mulbagal, Srinivaspur, Malur and Bangarpet taluks, whereas the Chikballapur Sub-Division has Chikballapur, Bagepalli, Gauribidanur, Chintamani, Gudibanda and Sidlaghatta taluks. Each of these 11 taluks is again subdivided into hoblies, each of which includes a group of villages. There are, in all, 53 hoblies and 2,743 villages in the district.

The Bangalore Division, which includes the district of Kolar, is headed by a **Divisional Commissioner**. The posts of Divisional Commissioners in the new Mysore State were created by the Mysore Adaptation of Laws Order, 1956, under the provisions of the States' Re-organisation Act, 1956. The Divisional Commissioner is the head of the revenue administration in his jurisdiction. He plays a prominent role not only in respect of revenue administration, but also in respect of the developmental activities. He acts as a link between the Government and the district authorities in respect of all developmental and public welfare activities. He tours in the districts and supervises the general activities of all developmental departments and gives them guidance, wherever necessary.

In view of the numerous activities under the Five-Year Plans, great importance has now been attached to the post of the Divisional Commissioner. He convenes co-ordination meetings of the District Officers periodically with a view to removing difficulties and bottlenecks and improving their work. He bestows urgent attention on relief measures in respect of floods, famines and scarcity conditions whenever they occur within his jurisdiction. The Divisional Commissioner is the channel through which all proposals from Deputy Commissioners regarding revenue matters, the community development programme, municipal administration and the like have to go to Government. The distribution and re-appropriation of budget grants to revenue offices, community development blocks, Taluk Development Boards and, to some extent, to Municipalities, is his responsibility. He constitutes the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioner in matters of revenue administration both as regards the revenue law as well as disciplinary proceedings against the revenue staff. In short, his functions may be described as appellate, inspecting, controlling, supervising, co-ordinating and advisory.

The main brunt of the district administration, however, is directly borne by the **Deputy Commissioner**, who works under the immediate supervision of the Divisional Commissioner. As the revenue head of the district, he plays the most important and pivotal role in all aspects of district administration, from land revenue work to that of planned development. With the advent of the democratic set-up and the increased tempo of developmental activities, his functions and responsibilities have further increased. In general, his functions may be defined as executive and his duties may be broadly classified as under :—

1. Revenue,
2. Law and Order,
3. Development,
4. Co-ordination and
5. Public welfare in general.

In the general pattern of the district administration, the Deputy Commissioner is the custodian of Government property in land (including trees and water), wherever situated, and at the same time, the guardian of the interests of members of the public in land, in so far as the interests of the Government in land have been conceded to them. All land, wherever situated, whether put to agricultural or other uses, is liable to payment of land revenue, except in so far as it may be expressly exempted by a special contract. Such land revenue is of three kinds: (1) agricultural assessment, (2) non-agricultural assessment and (3) miscellaneous. The Deputy Commissioner's duties are in respect of (1) fixation, (2) collection and (3) accounting of all such land revenue. He has to see that the revenue due is recovered punctually and with the minimum of coercion and that the collections are properly credited and accounted for. With a view to enabling him to carry out these and other duties, he has been given wide powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act.

**Revenue
collection**

The Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various Acts in respect of irrigation, ferries and bridges, stamps, etc. Any arrears, whether of Central or State Government, may be recovered as land revenue under the provisions of tax laws. If a party does not pay the tax in time, the tax-collecting authority sends a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who has powers to recover the amount in the same way as he does in respect of land revenue. He is also responsible for the maintenance of land records and in addition, he exercises various powers under several other Acts such as the Land Reforms Act, Land Acquisition Act, Mysore Land Improvement and Taccavi Loans Act, Mysore Irrigation Act and the Mysore Tenancy Act. He discharges also a quasi-judicial function in revenue disputes. Under the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, a large portion of the revenue from land is assigned to the Village Panchayats and Taluk Development Boards and the allocation of these funds is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner.

As the Executive District Magistrate of the district, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. He is the head of all executive magistrates in the district and has specified powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Since 1956, when the judiciary was separated from the executive in the district, the Deputy Commissioner has ceased to deal with the actual dispensation of justice. His law and order responsibility involves two distinct functions: firstly, he has to enforce law and order through the police and secondly, he has to take regulatory and penal action.

The other important function of the Deputy Commissioner is in the field of all-round development of the district. He is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Development Council, which has to guide and co-ordinate the developmental activities of several departments in the district and those of the Taluk Development Boards, which help in the execution of the community development programmes in the rural areas. He has also the over-all responsibility for the successful implementation of the plan schemes including social welfare work. Thus, co-ordination forms an important part of the work of the Deputy Commissioner. He holds periodical meetings of all the district-level officers (except the judicial officers), with a view to reviewing the progress of work done by the several departments and to co-ordinating and intensifying their efforts. He has to possess a clear picture of the normal working of the several departments at the district level so as to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental activities.

**Co-ordination
work**

The Deputy Commissioner also exercises supervision over local administration, census operations, elections, excise, food and civil supplies. He is enjoined to give effect to the notifications issued by the Government from time to time in respect of food-grains and other essential commodities. He is also the custodian of all Muzrai institutions in the district under the provisions of the Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act. He is also the licensing authority under the Mysore Cinematograph Act and exercises powers vested in him also under the Indian Explosives Act, Indian Arms Act, Prevention of Untouchability Act, etc. Being the *ex-officio* District Registrar, he exercises control over the Sub-Registrars and is also *ex-officio* Collector of Stamps and Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority. He is also *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner under the Small Savings Scheme.

**Other
functions**

The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar, is assisted in his duties in the headquarters by two officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioners, designated as Headquarters Assistant and District Development Assistant, respectively. There is also another officer designated as the Headquarters Assistant to the District Registrar, who assists the Deputy Commissioner in so far as his work relating to registration and stamps are concerned. Besides, there is also an Office Assistant, a Food Assistant and a District Social Welfare Officer assisting the Deputy Commissioner in their respective fields. Since 1967, the Regional Transport Officer of the district also works under the control of the Deputy Commissioner.

The two revenue sub-divisions, *viz.*, Kolar and Chikballapur, are under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner each. These officers are in direct charge of the revenue administration in their

**Assistant
Commis-
sioners**

respective sub-divisions. Their functions are almost similar to those of the Deputy Commissioner, but at a lower level. In all revenue matters, these officers are appellate authorities over the orders passed by the Tahsildars. They exercise such of the powers as are conferred on them by the Deputy Commissioner under the various Acts and regulations in force. They are also *ex-officio* First Class Executive Magistrates.

**Other
Revenue
Officers**

Tahsildars.—In the revenue hierarchy, the revenue officer at the taluk level is the Tahsildar. There are, in all, eleven Tahsildars in the district in charge of its eleven taluks. They are the key-officers in the taluks in so far as the revenue administration of the taluks is concerned. They derive their powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act and their functions are defined in the Mysore Revenue Manual. They are directly responsible to the Assistant Commissioners of their respective sub-divisions and are required to exercise supervision over the working of the Revenue Inspectors in the several hoblies coming under their respective jurisdictions. They are also *ex-officio* Second Class Executive Magistrates.

Revenue Inspectors.—In the district's revenue set-up, the Revenue Inspector is an important official at the hobli level. The Revenue Inspectors are in charge of hoblies and each one of them is directly responsible to the respective Tahsildar of the taluk in the administration of revenue matters in his hobli. He supervises the working of the village officers and scrutinises the village maps. He is expected to acquaint himself generally with the agricultural conditions in his jurisdiction.

**Village
Officers**

The village establishment, until recently, consisted of five hereditary offices, *i.e.*, those of Patel (village headman), Shanbhogue (village accountant), Talari (village scout), Thoti (village watchman) and Nirganti (distributor of water from irrigation tanks). The remuneration of the Patel and the Shanbhogue consisted of Inam lands subject to *jodi* or full assessment and cash allowances called *potgi* on the basis of the land revenue demand. The other village servants received a certain quantity of grain from each cultivator and certain cash payments from non-agriculturists in addition to the remuneration by rent-free or lightly assessed lands.

These hereditary offices were, however, abolished by the Mysore Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force throughout the State on 1st February 1963. Under the provisions of this Act, in place of Shanbhogues, Village Accountants have already been appointed as full-time Government servants on salary basis. They are also liable to work as *ex-officio* Secretaries of Village Panchayats, in addition to their duties

relating to revenue matters. They have to carry out the instructions of the Tahsildars and the Revenue Inspectors. They are required to perform such other duties also as may be entrusted to them by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

The present incumbents of the posts of Patels and other village offices are, however, being continued for the time-being without hereditary rights. The Patels get an annual remuneration equivalent to the *potgi* which they were receiving prior to the abolition of their hereditary offices.

The next important department in the district, on the executive side, is the Police Department, headed by a Superintendent of Police with his headquarters at Kolar. The Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the Deputy Commissioner in so far as their functions in respect of maintenance of law and order are concerned. As regards discipline, training and other administrative matters are concerned, they are under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range, Bangalore.

**Law and
Order**

For administrative convenience, the Police Department in the district has been divided into two divisions, *viz.*, the Kolar Division and the Chikballapur Division, under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police each. In view of the concentration of a large population in the Kolar Gold Fields area, an additional Police Division has been established at Kolar Gold Fields, headed by a Special Superintendent of Police.

The functions of the Executive Engineer being purely technical, he is not directly subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner, though in a sense, he plays a part subsidiary to the general administration of the district, of which the Deputy Commissioner is the head. He is expected to help the Deputy Commissioner whenever required to do so. For instance, the Deputy Commissioner can ask the Executive Engineer to investigate the extent of utility of certain minor irrigation works. In times of floods, famines, scarcity and the like, the Executive Engineer has to draw up plans and programmes of relief works in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and execute them expeditiously. There are two divisions of the Public Works Department in Kolar district, *viz.*, Kolar Division and Chikballapur Division, under the charge of an Executive Engineer each.

**Executive
Engineer**

The District and Sessions Judge, Kolar, is the principal judicial officer in the district and is the administrative head for both civil and criminal courts in the district. He has a separate and independent sphere of work and his functions have been set forth

**District and
Sessions
Judge**

in detail in Chapter XII on Law, Order and Justice. As Sessions Judge, he tries cases committed to sessions and as head of the judiciary in the district, he exercises appellate and supervisory powers over the subordinate judicial officers in the district. On the civil side, there is a Civil Judge at Kolar and a Munsiff each at Kolar, Kolar Gold Fields and Chikballapur.

In accordance with the scheme of separation of the judiciary from the executive, brought into force in the district in 1956, the functions of a Magistrate have been divided between two types of Magistrates designated as Judicial Magistrates and Executive Magistrates. There are three Judicial Magistrates' Courts in the district, *viz.*, the First Class Magistrate's Court at Kolar and the Special First Class Magistrates' Courts at Kolar Gold Fields and Chikballapur.

**Other
District-level
Officers**

There are also several other district-level officers in Kolar who are in charge of the administration of the several departments of Government in the district. It is unnecessary to describe their functions here, as in the case of most of them, their designations give an idea of their functions, and in the case of some of them, their functions and powers have been described in the appropriate chapters as also in Chapter XIII. Hence, only a list of these officers is given here. They are :

Deputy Director of Agriculture
Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
District Surgeon
District Health and Family Planning Officer
District Educational Officer
District Officer, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.
Tuber-Crop Development Officer, Kolar
Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce
Assistant Director of Sericulture
Commercial Tax Officer, Kolar Circle
Regional Transport Officer
District Employment Officer
District Statistical Officer
District Social Welfare Officer
District Survey Officer
Divisional Forest Officer
District Treasury Officer
District Publicity Officer.

**Central
Government
Offices**

The Central Government has its own offices in the district for the collection of income-tax, excise duties and small savings, administration of postal, telegraph and telephone services and the railways.